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Hugh Cecil Earl of Lonsdale.

1827.

167 The Young Horsewoman's Compendium of the Modern Art of Riding; comprising a Progressive Course of Lessons, designed to give Ladies a graceful seat on Horseback; at the same time so effectually to form the Hand, that they may in a short time acquire perfect command of their Horses. By **Edward Stanley,** late of the Royal Artillery. London. 1827.

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THE

YOUNG HORSEWOMAN'S

COMPENDIUM

OF THE

MODERN ART OF RIDING;

COMPRISING

A PROGRESSIVE COURSE OF LESSONS;

DESIGNED

To give Ladies a secure and graceful Seat on Horseback;

At the same time,

So effectually to form the Hand, that they may, in a short time, acquire perfect command of their Horses.

BY

EDWARD STANLEY,

LATE OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY.

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PREFACE.

A KNOWLEDGE of the Art of Horsemanship being considered essential in a Lady's education, and the length of practice necessary before any degree of perfection can be attained in so desirable an accomplishment, together with the necessity for prescribing rules to which the young Horsewoman may occasionally refer, in order to guard against falling into

certain errors which are at all times attended with a degree of danger; induces the Author to submit this brief work to the Public; which he flatters himself will be found, (if carefully perused, and the rules laid down put into practice,) greatly to assist Ladies in the acquirement of a sufficient knowledge of Riding for the common purposes of exercise, which, he humbly conceives, is as much as is necessary for them to acquire in the art; as, from the peculiarity of their seat, they must not expect to arrive at any great degree of proficiency in the higher airs of the Manage.

Much will depend on the first Lessons, which should be of the most gentle kind, and practised if possible in a Riding House; where particularly, if the Trot is persevered in, beginners will in a short time acquire great confidence and firmness in the Saddle.

The Trot has always been considered by the best Masters as the only true principle by which both Ladies and Gentlemen can attain a secure and graceful seat on horseback; and the Author's long practical experience fully convinces him of the correctness of that opinion.

Riding, as an accomplishment, is indisputably one of the most elegant a Lady or Gentleman can possess. Its acknowledged beneficial effects on the constitution by the Faculty, ought sufficiently to recommend it; and induce parents to spare neither pains nor expense in giving their children a competent knowledge of an art, which would embrace the advantages derivable from an exercise so conducive to health.

In submitting the following pages to the perusal of the Public, the Author has no pretensions to literary praise; his object is instruction, not fame; and having designed the fol-

lowing Lessons chiefly for the improvement of beginners, particularly those who cannot take the benefit of a Riding School, he has endeavoured to simplify, as well as abridge them, in order that they may be the better retained in the memory, and understood by the juvenile branches. Ladies should practise the different Lessons in the progressive order in which they are written; and make themselves well acquainted with one Lesson, before commencing another, by which confidence is acquired, and the seat, and hand, gradually formed.

There are many other Lessons, not mentioned in this concise volume,

which are of great importance to the young Horsewoman, when sufficiently advanced; but they can only be practised in a Riding House, particularly Leaping and Plunging, which must be used as finishing Lessons, in order more effectually to confirm the seat.

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

PLATES.

FRONTISPIECE.

The Frontispiece represents a Lady in the act of being lifted on Horseback, with a Gentleman assisting her with his right hand; and he is supposed to be holding the Horse's head with his left hand.

PLATE I.

The intention of this Plate is to represent a Side Saddle on a Horse's back, viewed from an elevated situation behind the Animal. The object of this Plate is to shew the Pupil the exact position which she must constantly maintain, particularly as to squareness when in the Saddle, upon which depends that true union so absolutely necessary between the Rider and Horse; and to enable Ladies to acquire which, is one of the principal objects of the progressive order of the following Lessons. The Author begs to assure Ladies, that they cannot possibly bestow too much attention in the study of this Plate, or refer to it too often. Should the Rider incline the upper part of her body forward to letter A., which will be better understood by referring to Plate III., she becomes disunited from her Horse, and extremely insecure; but if the upper part of the body is inclined a little back to letter B., the Rider will be united to her Horse, and firmly seated in the Saddle.

PLATE II.

This Plate represents a Horse in the Canter, moderately united. The Rider's position is erect, her shoulders a little back, and sitting quite square in the Saddle; a Bridoon Rein is held in the right hand, with the Whip sloped a little back behind the Saddle. Although Ladies are recommended in Lesson X. to hold the hands on a level with each other, when a Bridoon Rein is in the right; yet, in this Plate, the right hand is lower, in order to shew the position of the left, or Bridle Hand.

A Horse Cantering, as in this Plate, the haunches being under him, are made to sustain the principal part of the weight; he touches the ground but lightly with his fore feet, in consequence of the hind feet being brought more under the centre of gravity; his action is, therefore, rendered much safer.

PLATE III.

This Plate requires very little description; it sufficiently explains itself; but Ladies will perceive, that in consequence of the extremely awkward position of the Rider, the whole of her weight is thrown forward; the Horse not receiving the smallest assistance or support from the Rider, is going entirely on his shoulders; and as the chief part of his weight, as well as that of the Rider, is thrown on his leading fore-leg as it comes to the ground; and should he put his foot on a rolling stone, or be going over rough or uneven ground, he must certainly fall, and throw the Rider over his head; as it is impossible for her to give the Animal any assistance, from the extreme length of the Reins, and her awkward position in the Saddle.

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LESSON I.

APPROACHING A HORSE.

THE Horse must be so placed, preparatory to putting a Lady on his back, that she may approach him in a slow and steady manner directly at the shoulder; the animal can then neither bite nor kick her, if so disposed; indeed, there is scarcely a Horse that will not kick at a person going suddenly up to him from behind.

Should the Horse be in such a position, that a Lady cannot approach him on the

near side, it is strongly recommended that she should pass round by his head, (as a man is supposed to be holding him,) which precludes the possibility of receiving an injury from a kick. It is also desirable to let the animal, if possible, see the person approaching him, in order, as before observed, that he may not be taken by surprise.

LESSON II.

PUTTING A LADY ON HORSEBACK.

Two persons are necessary to assist in putting a Lady on Horseback; one to hold up the Horse's head, standing immediately in front, with a hand on each Bridoon Rein, close to the Horse's mouth; the other to lift the Lady up to the Saddle.

The Horse is to be placed straight on his legs, preparatory to putting a Lady on his back.

The Lady having first adjusted her Habit, is to place her right shoulder against the Saddle, her face turned a little from the Horse. Her right hand, with the Bridoon Rein hanging loosely on the fore-finger, or thumb, to be placed on the upright Horn, and to stand perfectly erect, resting the whole weight of the body on the right foot. The person to lift the Lady up, must place himself as close to her as possible, and unite his hands, by putting the fingers within each other; he is then to stoop down, and receive the Lady's left foot full in his hands near the ground, in order that she may keep her left knee as straight as possible, which gives the man additional power, and causes her to be lifted perpendicularly to the Saddle.

If the left knee be much bent, the person lifting the Lady up, has very little

command of her weight; she is, therefore, compelled to drag herself up in the most ungraceful manner possible; and often necessitated to make two or three attempts, before she can succeed in getting into the Saddle.

By attention to the foregoing rules, the most heavy, or inactive person, may be lifted up at the first attempt, if the pressure in the man's hands is correctly perpendicular, and the Lady stands so close to the Saddle as to touch it with her right shoulder.

Care must be taken, that no part of the Habit is under the Lady's foot when placed in the man's hands; as it acts as a check, and prevents her taking a sufficient spring, which must be proportioned to the height of the Horse the Lady is to be put on.

The Lady, after placing her left hand on the man's right shoulder, will be ready to be lifted up, which must be done in a very slow and steady manner; but it is advisable to remain in the above position a few moments, as all hurry should be particularly avoided.

It must be clearly understood, and explained to the man, that he must lift, and the Lady spring from the instep, at the same instant, guiding herself up to the Saddle with the right hand. In taking the spring, it must be done at two motions or springs; the first is given as a signal to the man, who is to lift at the second; and, after a few trials, he will become tolerably expert in lifting a Lady on Horseback, if this rule is observed.

The Whip had better be given to the man holding the Horse, who must take

it in his left hand, and present it to the Lady when settled in her Saddle; but after she becomes expert in mounting her Horse, she may then hold it between the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand; and, before taking hold of the crutch, to put the small end of it between the horns, letting it hang down on the off side. Thus the changing of the Whip from the left to the right hand is avoided.

On arriving in the Saddle, the right knee must be put into the crutch as soon as possible; but, previously to doing so, it will be advisable to take hold of the Habit and under garments with the right hand, close to the right knee, to ease them up, in order to allow sufficient room for the knee to come quite down in the crutch, where it must remain perfectly stationary.

Should the Habit require any regulating behind, the Lady must take hold of the crutch with her right hand, and gently raise herself from the Saddle, and smooth it down with her left hand; but if it is properly adjusted, previously to being lifted up, it will require very little alteration after arriving in the Saddle.

Great care must be observed, that the Habit and under garments are particularly full and easy, in order that the Lady may be at perfect liberty, and not, in the most trifling degree, confined by them.

A Horse must not be suffered to hurry away after getting on his back, but be made to stand still a few minutes, and then to walk quietly off. This is an excellent lesson for a young or unsteady Horse.

Learners should practise this, and the following lesson for dismounting, two or three times previously to commencing their daily ride; and, in a short time, they will be able to get on Horseback with a great degree of ease.

LESSON III.

ASSISTING A LADY OFF HER HORSE.

A LADY should not dismount from her Horse without the assistance of at least one man, although two are absolutely necessary. But should one person only be present, he must stand at the Horse's head, holding it up, to prevent him from kicking or springing forward.

The Lady, previously to taking her knee out of the crutch, must draw her foot from the Stirrup, as in the event of any thing occurring to alarm the Horse,

so as to cause him to move before her foot is withdrawn from it, and her knee not in the crutch at the time, a serious accident may be the result: so that taking the knee out of the crutch must be the last thing done, previously to springing out of the Saddle.

Having taken the foot out of the Stirrup, and knee out of the crutch, the right hand is to be placed on the upright horn of the Saddle, with the Bridoon Rein hanging loosely on the fore-finger or thumb, and the Whip between the thumb and finger, which must be previously brought very slowly over to the near side, with the point hanging down to prevent alarming the Horse, by its being too suddenly changed; she must then take a spring from the Saddle, throwing herself quite clear of it; and whilst in the act of descending, give

the body a gentle turn round to the right, which will materially assist in disengaging her from it. On arriving on the ground, drop a gentle courtesy, to prevent any injury to the frame, by the shock it may receive on coming in contact with it.

But should there be a second person present, the Lady may give her left hand to him, supporting herself as she descends by the crutch of the Saddle, and the man's hand.

Before springing from the Saddle, draw the right hand down under the right leg, to feel that the Habit is quite clear of it and the Stirrup.

Supposing the Lady to be again lifted up, we proceed to the next lesson for

taking the reins, which must be the first thing done after being settled in the Saddle.

LESSON IV.

OF THE REINS.

LADIES are recommended always to ride with a double Bridle, and, at all times, to keep both Reins in hand. There is a possibility, when one Rein only is used, of its breaking. This has, to the author's knowledge, often happened, and is sufficient to support his argument in favour of a double Bridle.

When a single Bit only is used on a Lady's Horse, and that generally a Curb,

there is a continual hanging on the Reins, to the destruction of all feeling in the animal's mouth; and should he be of a fretful disposition, he is rendered extremely unsteady and unsafe to ride, as by the sudden check of the Reins, a Horse is sometimes made to rear, and, perhaps, fall over.

Although the Bridoon Rein, as well as the Curb, is formed by two pieces sewed together in the centre, yet the Author will speak of each Rein in the plural number, in allusion to the two sides of the Rein, in order that he may be the better understood.

Some Ladies are apt to hang the Bridoon Reins on the crutch of the Saddle, or drop them on the Horse's neck; in both cases they become perfectly useless,

as they get entangled under the right knee, or safe of the Saddle, and might as well be taken off altogether.

The method of taking the Reins cannot be too simple; they must proceed uninterruptedly from the Horse's mouth to the Rider's hand, and must not cross or interfere with each other. The Author will, therefore, commence with the system he has invariably found to be the most easy to beginners in particular, and which likewise gives more effect to the operation of the Reins on the Bit than any now in practice.

In Chapter the second, the Author recommended that the Bridoon Reins should be taken on the fore-finger or thumb of the right hand, whilst being lifted on the Horse; but as the Lady is

now supposed to be settled in the Saddle, and preparing to take her Reins in the Bridle Hand, she is to place the Bridoon Reins loosely across the palm of the left hand, which will hereafter be called the Bridle Hand; then to take hold of the button,* or end of the Curb Reins, with the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand, and draw them gently through the Bridle Hand, with the little finger between them, until she feels a very light pressure on the Horse's mouth. The centre, or part where the Bridoon Reins are united, and which was previously placed in the palm of the left hand, is now to be put on the Curb Reins; the

* In order to enable a Lady at all times to keep her Curb Reins even, it is advisable to sew the ends together, so as to form a kind of button, by which the centre may be instantly found, should she by any accident drop them.

fingers to be shut close, and the thumb pressed down upon the Reins, to prevent them slipping through the hand.

The Curb Reins must lay flat to the Horse's neck, as any twist or turn in them will make a difference in their operation on the Bit, so as to prevent its true action in the Horse's mouth. To ensure which, in taking up the Curb Reins, press them lightly between the thumb and fore-finger of the Bridle Hand, as they are drawn through it, which will immediately prove if they are twisted.

When a Lady becomes tolerably expert on Horseback, and possesses a competent knowledge of the use of her Reins, and wishes to ride on the Curb only, the foregoing method is recommended as being the most simple; but learners are advised by no means to ride in this way;

the hand, not being formed, is consequently extremely unsteady; the Horse is, therefore, at every instant checked, which renders him very irritable, and irregular in his paces.

Nor ought a beginner to ride with Curb Reins until she can stop, turn her Horse, rein him back, &c., and manage him with a Bridoon Rein in each hand, and the hands become tolerably steady. It is, therefore, desirable for a young scholar to ride as much as possible on the Bridoon when taking the first lesson; and the following method of holding them is strongly recommended when riding on the Bridoon only.

After taking up the Reins, as before directed, draw the Bridoon Rein short in the left hand, and take that which hangs down by the right or off side of

the Horse's neck the same length in the right hand, so that all the Reins may be of an equal length, and have the same purchase on the Horse's mouth. To ride on the Bridoon only, let the Curb Reins slip two or three inches through the left hand, which throws the whole purchase on the Bridoon; and if any thing should occur to render it necessary to resort to the Curb, the Reins can be instantly drawn short, by taking hold of the end or button with the right hand.

When the Bridoon Reins are divided in each hand, the hands must not be more than three inches apart; in this case, the Rein in the right hand guides the Horse to the right, and that in the left hand to the left.

The right Bridoon Rein to come direct from the Horse's mouth, and pass

between the third and fourth fingers of the right hand, letting it fall over the fore-finger, pressing the thumb close down, to keep it secure. The Whip to be in the right hand, with the point downwards; and it can be used with great effect immediately behind the Saddle.

The Author takes this opportunity to caution his fair readers against any unnecessary flourishing of the Whip, particularly with a young and spirited Horse; but when it is used to punish the animal, it must be done with severity. Ladies are, in general, so shy of using it, that the Horse, in consequence of not being sufficiently punished when he commits a fault, soon repeats it, and, ultimately, turns perfectly restive.

If Ladies wish to ride with the Reins all drawn up in the left hand, which is

a common practice, the Author begs to recommend the following method of holding them, as being the most simple.

Supposing the Reins to be taken according to the first method, with the Bridoon Reins hanging loosely across the hand, the Curb Reins must now be divided by the third instead of the little finger. The Bridoon Rein to be drawn short in the left hand, and also taken short in the right, and placed under the fore-finger of the Bridle Hand. The Reins to be all of an equal length, and have the same purchase on the Horse's mouth, and kept one upon the other, and secured by the pressure of the thumb. There will then be one Bridoon Rein under the little finger, and one under the fore-finger, with the Curb Rein in the centre, and they will be found not to cross each other.

ANOTHER METHOD.

It has already been observed, that the Reins should proceed uninterruptedly from the Horse's mouth to the Bridle Hand, in order that he may clearly feel and understand the various motions of the hand; it will at once be perceived, that, according to the following system of holding them, such cannot be the case, as the Reins are crossed near the hand. Nevertheless, as it is a system much in fashion, the Author will endeavour to explain it; and Ladies, after trying both methods, can adopt that which will afford the greatest facility in obtaining command of the Horse.

First, take the centre of the Bridoon Reins between the thumb and fore-finger of the right hand, put the middle finger of the Bridle Hand between them, with the point of the finger downwards, draw them moderately tight, and lay them over the fore-finger. The Curb to be taken up with the right hand, the same as in the former system, to be drawn short, and fall over the fore-finger upon the Bridoon Reins. They are to be kept correctly one upon the other; and, for security, the thumb should be pressed firm upon them.

The right Bridoon Rein, which comes immediately from under the fore-finger of the Bridle Hand, may, occasionally, be taken in the right hand, as in the foregoing system.

LESSON V.

OF THE POSITION OF THE BODY.

Too much attention cannot possibly be paid to the position of the body in the Saddle, as its correct balance will depend thereon. It must at all times be erect, and particularly easy and square, in order to ensure a perfect assimilation between its motions and the action of the Horse, without which, it will be utterly impossible to acquire any degree of balance.

When a Lady sits square, with her shoulders back, the weight of the body is brought down in the Saddle, and she becomes firmly seated on her Horse, and enabled to accompany him in all his motions.

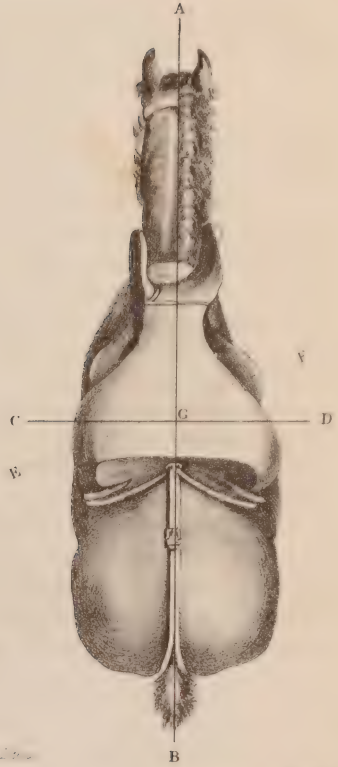
Should the Horse plunge, or become otherwise unsteady, the throwing back of the body, provided it is square in the Saddle, prevents the violence of his action from disturbing the Rider. In every case of unsteadiness in the Horse, this rule must be followed, excepting when he rears, at which time the whole weight of the Horse, as well as that of the Rider, is thrown perpendicularly upon his hind legs; and should he, in this position, receive the most trifling check from the Rider's hand, he must inevitably fall backwards.

When a Horse shows a disposition to rear, yield the hand immediately to him, so that the Reins may be very loose, giving him a smart cut with the Whip, to make him go forward; but when he is absolutely in the act of rearing, yield the Bridle Hand, as before directed, and lean forward close to his neck; and should the right hand be at liberty, catch him round the neck with it: this will materially assist in bringing him down on his fore feet, and effectually prevent the Rider's body from going back, or the Horse receiving the slightest check from the hand. Should your Horse kick up behind, throw your body well back, raise his head, and apply the Whip smartly on the shoulder.

It is the opinion of many, that Ladies, as well as Gentlemen, ought to take their first lessons without a Stirrup.

This is a mistaken notion, the fallacy of which, the Author flatters himself, can be proved in a few words.

For instance, a Gentleman has an equal weight on each side of his Horse, which keeps him balanced in the centre of his Saddle. This weight, as regards the Lady's seat, is thrown all on one side; it is, therefore, obvious, that if a Lady, before she is settled in her Saddle by long practice, is suffered to be without her Stirrup, the weight of her left leg hanging down, will, most decidedly, prevent her from maintaining the centre of the Saddle; and, as a natural consequence, cause her to hang entirely by the crutch, to the total destruction of balance and gracefulness of riding, besides the danger of injuring the Horse's back, by drawing the Saddle on one side.



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When a Lady is enabled to sit perfectly square, and has acquired a firm seat with a Stirrup, she may then ride occasionally without one; and there will be little danger of the body being pulled from the proper position by the weight of the left leg, as a Lady's seat on Horseback, when once formed on correct principles, will not be affected by the disuse of a Stirrup.

In order to ensure this squareness of position, without which a Lady can never ride with any degree of ease or grace, the Author begs to refer his fair readers to the annexed plate, which represents a Saddle on the back of a Horse, viewed from behind, in which a line A.B. must be imagined to pass along the centre of the Saddle and Horse's mane, between his ears, and over his croup; upon this line the Lady must correctly place her-

self, looking between the Horse's ears to letter A., so that the hips may be upon the line C. D., which, being at right angles with the line A. B., places her square, and in the centre of the Saddle. The centre of gravity of the Rider, must rest on the point of intersection G. of the said two lines A. B. and C. D., where she must constantly feel herself united to her Horse. But this will depend upon the ease and pliancy of the position.

Particular attention must be paid to the length of the Stirrup, an object of great importance; as maintaining the centre of gravity depends, in a very great degree, upon it.

Previously to the fitting of the Stirrup, the Rider must place herself in the Saddle, according to the above rule, allow-

ing her left leg to hang easy, with the toe raised, and the knee a little bent; and if the Stirrup be fitted to the leg in this position, it will be of a proper length. Too long a Stirrup is equally destructive to the seat, as one too short; in the first place, the Rider's body is drawn by her endeavour to keep her Stirrup, away to the left of the centre of the Saddle; when too short, it is forced to the right of the centre, in which the hips will be on the dotted line E. F., and shews the way Ladies sit, who have not received proper instructions in riding, which places them in an extremely insecure and ungraceful position.

Too short a Stirrup also gives additional action to the body in the Saddle, and prevents the Rider sitting down in it, or throwing the body sufficiently back.

The Lady having taken her seat square in the Saddle, with the Bridoon Reins divided in each hand, will proceed according to the following rules, to place the upper part of the body.

As the position of the upper part of the bust entirely depends on the head, particular care must be taken that it is upright; neither inclining to the right, nor to the left, forward, nor backward. The shoulders to be kept down, and thrown a little back from the perpendicular; this expands the chest, and gives a hollowness to the small of the back, which it must retain while on Horseback.

The body, from the waist upwards, must be moveable, and extremely pliant in every part, particularly across the loins; where it must act like a hinge,

to enable the upper part to yield to the Horse's motion. This yielding of the upper part of the body, when square, keeps the Rider's weight down in the Saddle, and enables her to maintain her seat in the more violent struggles with the animal.

The Author must again caution his fair readers, to sit extremely pliant and easy; as the most trifling stiffness in any part of the body, particularly across the loins, will prevent its motion corresponding with the Horse's action, and cause the Rider to be jerked out of the Saddle at every irregularity in the Horse's paces.

The arms must hang easy, and quite independent of the body at the shoulders, and be kept near the side, and not, by any means, to appear stiff.

The right leg, from the hip to the knee, to be kept immoveable down in the Saddle, particularly the knee; and in order to effect which, the heel should be drawn back.

The left leg must hang perfectly steady, particularly from the hip to the knee, with the toes lifted up, and turned in; the leg kept close to the Horse's side, the knee close to the Saddle, and by no means to press hard in, or, at any time, to depend upon the Stirrup, which is only given to ease the weight of the leg.

If the left leg is not turned well into the Saddle, the muscles being round, will cause it to shake about. This unsteadiness in the leg will be communicated to the body, and disturb that assimilation which should always exist between the

motions of the Rider's body and the Horse; but, on the contrary, if it is properly turned in, and kept firm, and close to the Saddle, it will add very much to the steadiness of the position, and security of the Rider.

Ladies' Saddles are in general made too short. They should be sufficiently long to allow the upright horn to come immediately from under the bend of the knee, which gives the Lady double the purchase in the crutch, and causes her to ride with a greater degree of security and comfort.

LESSON VI.

OF THE BRIDLE HAND.

Too little attention is paid, in the generality of Riding Schools, to what ought to be the first and principal lesson a young Horsewoman should be made perfect in; namely, the hand, and proper management of the Reins. Ladies cannot possibly attend too much to this part of the art. Their future comfort on Horseback, and the goodness of the Animal's mouth and paces, will entirely depend upon it, particularly the latter, which must be regulated by an extremely

slow and gradual drawing in or yielding of the Reins, by the action of the wrist, as circumstances may require.

Thus the danger of alarming the Horse, or taking him by surprise, will be avoided; and he will the better comprehend the various aids of the hand, and be more willing to obey them.

The Wrist to be so rounded, or bent, as to turn the finger-nails in, and opposite the body, so that the end of the thumb may point across the waist to the right. The little finger to be nearest the body, which gives an equal purchase to each Curb Rein, particularly when riding with the Reins all in one hand, gives it additional strength, and greatly improves the general appearance of the whole position.

The Bridle Hand must be held about three, or three and a half inches from the waist, and kept on a level with the elbow, when the Horse's head is well placed.

If he carries his head low, the hand must be above the level of the elbow, in order to raise it, with the assistance of an occasional and imperceptible motion of the little finger upwards to the face, keeping the upper part of the body reclining a little back, to take the weight from his shoulders.

If he carries his head high, and his nose out, the hand must be held as low as possible; indeed, Ladies cannot carry the Bridle Hand too low in such a case, as it brings down his nose, and improves the general position of his head.

The Bridle Hand must be kept firm, yet light; otherwise, the Horse will be continually pulling at it, endeavouring to get his head down, which destroys that steady communication that ought, at all times, to exist between the Rider's hand and the Horse's mouth; it discovers to the animal that he is not under command, and places the Rider's body in an extremely awkward and insecure position.

In order to facilitate the acquirement of this firmness and steadiness of hand, it is recommended, that Ladies should, when in the Walk, frequently shorten the Reins, and, by an extremely slow motion of the little finger towards the waist, with the upper part of the body back, and a gentle application of the left heel and Whip, gradually to

shorten the Horse's step, and bring him almost to a stand still. The object in applying the heel and Whip, is to press the Horse's haunches under him, as he is retained by the hand. This unites the Horse, and gives the Rider a great command over him; and tend, materially, to the improvment of the hand.

But he must not be held in this position long, as it is apt to make a Horse, not accustomed to this lesson, or one that is weak in his hocks or loins, fretful and unsteady. He must, therefore, after being held thus a few moments, be relieved by the gradual yielding of the hand, and suffered to walk forward at full liberty. This may often be repeated to very great advantage both to Rider and Horse; but the greatest possible attention must be paid to the hand, as it cannot move too

slow, both in drawing in and yielding the Reins. The wrist must, therefore, be extremely pliant, and there must never be more than the natural weight of the hand on the Horse's mouth, and the various motions of the hand must proceed from the wrist only.

The Bridle Hand must be held immediately over the line A. B., when the Horse is going straight forward. This is the general position, from which the four* movements, to guide him to the right, and left, forward, and backward, ought to be made.

First.—To guide the Horse to the right, turn the nails of the Bridle Hand upwards, so as to direct the little finger

* Boringer's History and Art of Horsemanship, Chap. 2.

to the right; turn the bust to the right, in order to throw the balance of the body into the turn, giving the Horse a gentle tap with the Whip, to make him move forward as he turns, which causes him not only to obey the hand, but cross his legs correctly, one over the other.

Second.—To guide the Horse to the left, turn the nails a little down, so as to direct the little finger to the left, keeping the hand up, with the bust turned to the left. Apply the left heel to the Horse's side, and the Whip behind the Saddle, to urge him well forward. But should he hesitate in obeying this aid of the hand, the Whip may be applied to great advantage on the right shoulder.

Third.—To go backwards, shorten the Reins a little, turn the back of the

hand down, with the finger nails upwards, so as to bring the little finger nearest the body, with the thumb-nail towards the Horse's head, keeping the hand low, and the body back; and if the little finger is gently pulled in towards the waist, the Horse will step back, should he ever have been taught this lesson.

Fourth.—To go forward, yield the hand a little by the action of the wrist; this lengthens the Reins, and gives the Horse liberty; a gentle tap of the Whip will then cause him to advance.

In the above motions, to the right and left, the little finger to move at equal distances each side of the line A.B.

In practising the said four motions, let the Bridle Hand return to the general

position in the centre of the waist, after making each respective motion, in order that they may be the better comprehended.

The Bridle Hand is to be confined in all its movements, right and left, to the width of the waist, as, at no time, ought it to appear beyond it; and the smaller and less marked they are, to produce effect, the better; this will depend upon its being kept in the proper position near the body.

When there is a Bridoon Rein in the right hand, the motions of the left hand will be the same as above described; and in guiding the Horse to the right, if the Rein in the right hand is gently pulled in towards the waist, it will very materially assist the Bridle Hand in turning to the right. And in guiding

the Horse to the left, the right hand must cross over towards, and follow the left hand.

In stopping or reining a Horse back, the Rein, in the right hand, must be employed the same as those in the left, by the turning of the little finger in towards the waist.

The Author begs particularly to caution Ladies against continually using the Curb; and recommends them to ride, occasionally, on the Bridoon. It is a great relief to the animal's mouth, and keeps him in good temper with the hand.

As a Horse ought to receive a certain degree of support from the Rider's hand, all quick motions must, therefore, be particularly avoided; as a sudden yielding of the hand deprives him of that

support, throws him on his shoulders, makes him unsteady, and spoils his mouth and paces.

The wrist must be neither more nor less bent than already described; as in either case, the hand will appear extremely stiff and awkward, and be heavy on the Horse's mouth.

If the Horse is, at any time, unsteady, and should endeavour to get his head down, raise the hand, but not too high; which not only increases that unsteadiness in the Animal, but also communicates it to the upper part of the Rider's body; pulls it forward, disturbs the balance, and causes the Rider to lose the command of her Horse.

Never suffer the Bridle Hand to become dull, as there is scarcely a moment

but it has something to do. But to know when to feel the Horse's mouth, or yield the hand to him, will require much study and long practice. A Lady can never ride well who does not know this great secret; and it would be well to bear in mind, that an unsteady hand is sure to produce an unsteady Horse.

LESSON VII.

OF THE WALK.

BEGINNERS must ride quietly at a Walk for some days, previously to commencing with the Trot, as it settles them in the Saddle, strengthens the nerves, and prepares the body for the rougher motions of the Trot.

When a Horse is walking, let him have sufficient liberty of Rein to allow him to step well out, without permitting him to get his head too low, which would

cause the Reins to become so lengthened, that if the Animal trips he must fall on his knees; having lost, by the extreme length of Rein, that support which he ought to receive from the hand. From the same cause, the Rider must lose the command of her Horse, and cause him to go entirely on his shoulders, which must never be allowed.

If a Horse is made to step well out when in a Walk, his other paces will be much improved by it; as it loosens, and gives a greater degree of freedom of action to the shoulders.

To put a Horse into a Walk, yield the hand a little by the action of the wrist, giving him a gentle tap with the Whip, keeping the body back, and the whole position pliant and easy.

Particular care must be paid to the Horse's paces, which must, at all times, be even and regular.

If the Horse is going over rough or uneven ground, the Reins must be taken shorter, the Horse's head kept up, and the Rider's position more back, in order to take the weight from his shoulders, and cause him to lift up his legs, assisting him occasionally with the Whip.

The Lady, after riding straight forward for two or three days, will proceed to the next Lesson for stopping a Horse.

LESSON VIII.

OF THE STOP.

THE greatest proof possible that a Lady has her Horse under good command, is being able at all times to stop him well. Attention to the following directions will greatly facilitate the attainment of so essential a part of the art; but much will depend on the strict adherence to the rules for the Bridle Hand.

Having previously recommended that all sudden motions of the Bridle Hand

should be particularly avoided, this precaution is indispensably necessary in the Stop, which must be made very gradual, stopping the Horse firm and even on his legs, with his haunches under him, and not by any means on his shoulders; which will be the case if the Reins are permitted to be too long; therefore, previously to stopping a Horse, it is necessary that they should be examined, to see that they are of equal lengths, and sufficiently short to allow the hands room to act between them and the waist, without coming in contact.

Neither must they be so short at any time as to draw the hands forward, which will also pull the shoulders and upper part of the body with them, and destroy the balance.

Horses are sometimes rendered ex-

tremely unsteady when the Reins are too short.

Beginners are also apt to get the Bridle Hand too high in the Stop; this has the same bad effect on the upper part of the body, as when the Reins are too short; diminishes the strength of the hand, and disturbs that pliancy which is so absolutely necessary to be observed throughout the whole position.

The Bridle Hand must be kept low, with the back of it turned down (3rd motion, Chapter VI.) and the little finger pulled very gently, though firmly in towards the waist. This position of the hand, the same as in reining back, increases the purchase on the Reins; and as they are drawn in, the little finger must have a slight action upwards, to raise the Horse's head, and the upper

part of the Rider's body must at the same time be thrown gradually, and well back: this unites her to her Horse, and stops him firm and even on his legs.

In stopping a Horse with the Reins in one hand, care must be observed, that it is correctly in the centre of the waist, on the line A. B., and that the Horse is stopped perfectly straight; and immediately the Stop is completed, the hand must be slowly yielded to him, lengthening the Reins, and by a slight application of the Whip, if necessary, to make him step well out.

Never stop a Horse when turning, as there is a possibility of his striking his legs together, and throwing himself down.

All Horses do not require the same

degree of retention of the Reins in the Stop. The particular degree each Horse will require, depends upon many circumstances, such as the conformation of the Animal, state of his mouth, temper, &c.

Should too much force be employed, the Animal may be materially injured by the sudden Stop he is compelled to make, and perhaps to rear; on the other hand, the Stop will be imperfectly made, should the Bridle Hand not be sufficiently firm. But practice, together with a due attention to the rules laid down for the Bridle Hand, will give the learner a knowledge of the state of each Horse's mouth she may ride, as soon as she takes him in hand, so as to proportion the stress on the Reins accordingly.

The Rider being now supposed tolerably perfect in stopping her Horse, we will

proceed to the following Lesson for the Turn.

LESSON IX.

OF THE TURN.

It has already been observed, that a Horse ought, at all times, to receive more or less support from the Rider's hand, according to circumstances; but he will require it, when moving on a small circle, or on the Turn, more than on a straight line; as a Horse, on the Turn, crosses his legs; and, if left to himself, will hesitate in obeying the Bridle Hand; and in consequence of not being sufficiently supported, is likely

to trip himself up, or turn entirely on his shoulders.

Previously to turning a Horse, it will be well to examine the Reins, to see that they have not slipped through the hand, (which is but a momentary operation,) in order to ensure to the Animal not only the necessary support, but that he may feel and understand immediately the aid of the hand.

To turn a Horse to the right on his own ground, observe well the first motion of the Bridle Hand, (Chapter the Sixth,) keeping it up, in order to elevate the Horse's head, and bring his haunches under him; but particular care must be taken that the Horse is not confined, as he would be prevented from crossing his legs correctly, that is, one

over the other, and not one behind the other, so as to endanger his falling, or cause him to run back; but when in the act of turning, he must be urged well forward with the left heel and Whip; the heel keeps him up to the hand; the Whip, applied on the off side, behind the Saddle, assists the hand in its operation to the right.

In turning to the left, more attention must be paid to the position of the Bridle Hand than to the right, as Ladies are apt to drop the hand in placing it in the second position, instead of elevating it a little, to keep up the Horse's head.

In the position of the hand to turn to the left, the nails must not be turned down too much, so as to cause the elbow to be lifted up, which looks extremely awkward; as the arm must never be

disturbed by the different motions of the hand, and particular care must be observed, that the Rider's body takes its proper turn, that is, always to the hand to which the Horse is turning. This not only greatly assists the Animal, but enables the Rider to maintain a steady seat in the Saddle.

In turning to the left, a Horse must be equally pressed forward, and up to the hand with the heel and whip, as to the right; the left heel assisting the hand to the left, and the whip pressing the Horse forward, and up to the hand.

It is a most excellent lesson, particularly for Ladies, frequently to turn round to both hands; more to the right about than to the left about; as Ladies, from the peculiarity of their seat, have a greater difficulty in throwing the balance

to the right, than to the left; and as beginners have a great dread of falling off the Horse to the right side, and consequently incline the position too much to the left to avoid it, frequent turning of the Horse to the right about will divest them of that apprehension, and greatly improve the balance.

Commence this Lesson on a large circle, gradually diminishing it, as the balance improves; attending strictly to the foregoing directions for turning; as the same aids for turning right and left, will also turn a Horse right and left about, that is, completely round; paying attention to the Animal correctly crossing his legs, by being urged well forward, and that the balance of the Rider's body be thrown more in towards the centre, by the turn of the body at the waist, as the

circle is contracted, and not by any movement of it in the Saddle.

It is recommended, in a former part of this Lesson, that the Horse should at all times receive a certain degree of support from the Rider's hand; this relates chiefly to beginners, who in general abandon their Horses too much, not only from a want of hand, but permitting the Reins to slip. Persons arriving at a tolerable degree of perfection in the Art, may occasionally, when the Horse is walking on a straight line, give the Reins up to him to a certain extent, and in suitable situations, that he may learn the use of his own powers, and to carry his Rider safe.

LESSON X.

REINING BACK.

THIS Lesson, as well as the Stop, assists very materially in giving a Lady a firm hand on a Horse; it at the same time greatly improves the Animal, as it teaches him to carry his head well, and obedience to the hand; and very materially assists in putting him on his haunches; but great judgment must be observed in putting it in practice, particularly avoiding hurry, or the most trifling degree of unsteadiness, either in the hand, or position of the Rider's body; which not only con-

fuses the Animal, but gives him pain, this being one of the most severe Lessons a young, or awkward Horse, can be put to, if continued for any length of time; nevertheless, Ladies should practise it every opportunity they may have; and if the following rules are strictly adhered to, the Horse will soon be taught to go back, without danger of irritating his temper, which will be gaining a double advantage, as the Rider's Hand, and the Horse, will be improved at the same time.

The Curb ought never to be used in putting a Horse back. Take a Bridoon Rein in each hand, letting the Curb Reins slip a little through the left hand, so that they may hang loose, according to the previous directions for riding on the Bridoon. The hands must be kept low, the body erect, and perfectly square in the Saddle; the Shoulders back, and

down, the eyes in a correct line between the Horse's ears to letter A., and the whole position extremely easy.

A Horse must be made to go back perfectly straight; therefore, particular care must be observed, that the Bridoon Reins are of exactly the same length, as should one be shorter than the other in the most trifling degree, the Horse's head will be bent on one side, which throws him out of the straight line, and frustrates the principal object of this Lesson.

Having taken the Reins as before directed, and shortened them a little, place the hands on a level with each other, and by a slow motion of the little fingers towards the body, the Horse will be made to step back; taking care that both Reins receive exactly the same purchase,

by the motions of the little fingers in towards the waist, at the same instant.

In reining back, a Horse cannot go too slow; therefore, yield the hands to him after every step, which will prevent his taking a dislike to it; but should he be quite unacquainted with this Lesson, and the Rider can succeed in her first attempt in making him take one step, she must be satisfied with it, and yield the hands to him immediately, caressing him on the neck with the right hand, and let him walk quietly forward.

The Rider will find great advantage in understanding this Lesson, as well as making her Horse acquainted with it; as in the event of getting by accident between two carriages or other objects, and not able to turn him round, or go forward, the Horse must be reined back

clear of the obstruction; otherwise an accident might be the result.

In reining a Horse back, the left heel and whip must be kept near the Horse's sides, to be ready to assist the hands in the event of the Horse throwing his croup out of the straight line.

The Rider having made herself tolerably well acquainted with the Walk, Turn, Stop, and Reining Back, may commence with the following Lesson for the Trot.

LESSON XI.

OF THE TROT.

As the Author is chiefly addressing himself to beginners, he will confine his observations on this pace principally to the Short, or, what is commonly called, the Manage Trot; it being generally admitted, that in it alone a Lady can acquire a firm and elegant seat on Horseback.

In this Trot, a Lady can correct her position at pleasure, and acquire a good balance in a short time, having so much

more control over the motions of the body in that pace, than in the canter.

The Trot also affords an opportunity of paying more attention to the Reins and Bridle Hand; therefore, by all means, persevere in it, and do not attempt to hitch or rise from the Saddle, until a firm seat is acquired. Sit perfectly erect and steady, paying particular attention to the position, guarding against stiffness as much as possible, beginning with an extremely slow Trot, and gradually increasing the velocity of the pace as confidence is found to increase.

The principal advantage derivable from the Trot, is that of bringing the body down in the Saddle by its own weight, and, consequently, finds the true equilibrium. But should the beginner

feel inconvenienced by the roughness of the pace, she must Trot two or three yards, then walking a short distance, resuming the Trot at intervals; thus she will, in the course of two or three days, not only cease to feel that inconvenience, but derive great benefit from persevering in this pace.

The hitching, or rising, can easily be acquired, after a Lady is settled in her Saddle, by the short Trot; and it must only be done when the Horse is moving at a very brisk pace, as it is chiefly his action that should give the first impulse to the motion of the body, observing well, that its weight must be eased down into the Saddle in a smooth and steady manner, by the purchase of the knee in the crutch, and the foot in the Stirrup.

The Author has frequently observed, both Ladies and Gentlemen, rise from the Saddle in a slow Trot; nothing can, in his opinion, make a Lady, in particular, appear more ungraceful.

The principal fault which Ladies generally fall into in rising in the Trot, is giving the body an extremely awkward twist to the left. It originates, in general, from beginning to rise before the body is correctly settled in the Saddle, and the seat confirmed. The Rider must, therefore, take particular care to rise square, and in a correct line between the Horse's ears to Letter A., rather keeping the left shoulder a little forward towards the Horse's ears, than backward.

Previously to putting a Horse into

the Trot from a Walk, shorten the Reins a little; and, by a gentle raising of his head, his haunches are brought more under him; then, by a slight tap with the Whip, and an extremely slow yielding of the hand, give him liberty to advance, and he will go into a Trot. But these aids must all be given at the same instant, without touching or jerking the Reins.

The Rider's position must, at all times, be erect and easy, with the shoulders back, particularly in the slow Trot; as it counteracts, in a greater degree, the effect of the increased roughness of the pace on the Rider's position, brings her down in the Saddle, and unites her to her Horse.

The action of the Trot being cross-wise; and as the Horse brings his feet

to the ground two at a time, it is easy for the Rider to tell, when he is strotting true, or ambling. This is of great importance to the Rider, and more so to the Horse, as the goodness of his other paces greatly depend on the correctness of the Trot.

Having already observed, that the Horse, when in the Trot, has two feet always on the ground, and two in the air; viz. the near fore-foot, and off hind-foot on the ground, and the off fore-foot and near hind-foot in the air, he then brings the latter two to the ground, and lifts the others up; so that he beats the ground twice in the Trot. The Rider must pay great attention that he brings the two feet down at the same instant, and occasionally to count one, two, to determine that the Trot is correct; as should any time elapse, be-

tween bringing the fore and hind-foot to the ground, it is a proof that the pace is not true, and must be corrected immediately by the Bridle Hand. Unsteadiness in the Bridle Hand will produce this irregularity in the Trot. If the Rider wishes to extend the Trot for the purpose of rising, or hitching, as it is termed, the Bridle Hand must be yielded to the Horse, and the Reins lengthened a little, in order to give him more liberty; at the same time, apply the Whip gently behind the Saddle, to urge him on.

To bring the Horse to a slow from a fast Trot, shorten the Reins, and draw the little finger of the Bridle Hand in towards the waist, raising the hand a little, with the upper part of the body more back.

Should the Horse break into a Canter from the Trot, stop him with the most gentle motion of the hand possible, (third motion,) throwing the upper part of the body back. The Bridle Hand must again be as gently yielded to him, that the Trot may be resumed; but should the motion of the hand be sudden, he will again start in a Canter, in consequence of not being properly supported.

The Lesson for the Turn may be practised to great advantage in the slow Trot, paying the strictest attention to the rules for turning the Horse; and observing, that the Animal will require more determined aids, and additional support, than in the Walk.

LESSON XII.

OF THE CANTER, OR SHORT GALLOP.

BEGINNERS having little or no control over the motions of the body in the Canter, should assiduously persevere in the Trot, until they can sit perfectly square in the Saddle, with a degree of firmness and ease; stop their Horses well, and turn them at pleasure; they may then commence the Canter without much danger of disturbing the seat.

The Canter is a short, collected, and

animated Gallop; (Plate 2.) and to put a Horse into this pace, a great degree of steadiness in the position of the body, as well as the hand, is necessary; that the Animal may feel the aids, and understand what is required of him.

Particular care must be paid to the squareness of the position, and general pliancy of the body, which should move in unity with, and accompany the Horse in his various motions. This will enable the Rider to sit still in her Saddle, as she ought scarcely to move from it in this pace.

The most trifling degree of stiffness in any part of the Rider's position, will effectually prevent it from yielding to the Horse's action, and will cause it to act in direct opposition to it, and the Rider to be jerked out of the Saddle at every step

Plate II.

the Horse takes, particularly if he becomes unsteady.

Until a Beginner acquires a tolerably good command of her Horse, she must commence the Canter from a short, and animated Trot; as she will find much less difficulty in putting him into that pace from a Trot, than from a Walk; as the Horse is supposed to be a little collected, and in a great measure prepared for it. To commence the Canter from a Walk, prepare the Horse by shortening the Reins two or three inches; then by an extremely gentle motion of the Bridle Hand in towards the waist, at the same time lifting the little finger up towards the face, with the body back, giving the Horse a gentle aid of the heel and whip, his head will be raised, and his haunches brought

under him. This places him in a ready position for going into the Canter.

If a Horse is not thus prepared, the Rider will find a difficulty in putting him into this pace; and should she succeed, he will go entirely on his shoulders (Plate 3.) and be liable to be thrown down.

Supposing the Horse to be now prepared, with the most gentle hand possible play with his mouth by the action of the wrist, applying the left heel and whip behind the Saddle, which will put him into a Canter.

The greatest care must be observed in giving the above aid of the Bridle Hand, that it does not amount to a jerk or check, so as to confuse, or irritate the Horse.

Plate III.

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In giving your Horse the necessary aids, be careful never to confine him; but immediately he shews a disposition to obey them, give him liberty, by slowly yielding the hand.

If a Horse when cantering goes slow, and moves with difficulty, and there is an irregularity in bringing his feet to the ground, which the Rider can feel by his motion, and he shews a particular degree of unsteadiness about the head, it is in general occasioned by being held too tight in the hand; to correct which, lengthen the Reins, or yield the hand slowly to him; and, if necessary, urge him on by a slight tap with the whip behind the Saddle.

If a Horse in the Canter pulls much, and tries to force the hand, the Rider must not employ force to force, as the

more resistance the Horse feels, the more he will be disposed to pull. The hand must also in this case be very gently given to him, and immediately drawn as slowly in towards the waist, keeping the upper part of the body back. This must be repeated every time a Horse attempts to force the hand; and by this method Horses are often broke of the above trick, which will soon amount to a vice, if not corrected in time.

A Lady's Horse should always lead with the right, or off fore leg in the Canter; but if he is disposed to take the left one, when the necessary aids are given, the Bridle Hand must be kept a little to the left, which will confine his near or left shoulder and leg, give more facility to the motion of the right, and compel him to go off with it. But this expedient ought not to be resorted

to, if it can be avoided; as the Horse should go into the Canter from a perfectly straight position, and not by any means suffered to throw his croup on one side.

Although it is recommended, that a Lady's Horse should in general lead with the right leg in the Canter, nevertheless, with those Ladies who are accustomed to perform long journies on horseback, and find it necessary to persevere in the Canter; it will be judicious occasionally to make their Horses lead with the left leg.

By adopting this plan, the Animal will feel much relief; as the leading fore leg comes to the ground with much greater force than the other, in consequence of the immense weight that is thrown upon it; it is, therefore, more subject to lame-

ness, particularly in the foot, and is the soonest worn out, which may be obviated by occasionally changing the leg.

The Horse's mouth must be kept lively, and his paces regulated by a drawing in or yielding of the hand, as circumstances may require; this must proceed from the wrist only, and be done with the greatest judgment and steadiness, in order to preserve a constant and steady communication between the hand and the Horse's mouth.

If your Horse is permitted to grow dull in this pace, or drop into a Trot, which will be the case, if the Reins are neglected, or suffered to slip through the hand, an occasional motion of the little finger of the Bridle Hand towards the waist, and up to the face, a throwing back of the upper part of the body, and

a gentle application of the whip behind the Saddle, will cause him to go more united and animated; (Plate 2.) and, as a reward for his obedience, yield the hands slowly to him.

The Reins in the Bridle Hand must frequently be examined, to see that they are exactly of the same length, and have not slipped through the hand; and attention must also be paid to the position of the Horse's head, that it is in a perfectly straight direction.

The Bridle Hand must be kept firm, the Horse's head up,* (Plate 2.) and lightened in hand by the motion of the little finger upwards, and on no account permit him to change his pace: this he

* See Lesson VI. for the Bridle Hand.

will do, if the Reins are suffered to slip through the hand.

In turning a Horse to the right in the Canter, or cantering on a circle, too much precision and delicacy in the management of the Reins cannot be observed; he must be supported well with the Bridle Hand, his head turned a little into the circle with the Bridoon Rein in the right hand, the balance of the Rider's body thrown well into the circle, by the turn of the bust from the waist; the Horse must be pressed forward and up to the hand with the left heel and whip, particularly with the former, which acts upon, and presses the off or leading hind leg under him, and supports and balances him in the Turn.

A Horse must not be turned short to the left in a Canter, when leading with

the right leg; therefore, to guard against accidents, he must either be walked or trotted to the left, and the Canter resumed, if necessary, when in a straight line.

LESSON XIII.

LEAPING.

It was not the Author's intention, when he commenced this little Work, as will be perceived by the Preface, to treat on the subject of this Lesson; it being, in his opinion, more adapted for Riding House practice, as far as relates to beginners; but should Ladies feel disposed to practise it out of doors, the following rules for the Flying Leap may be found useful.

This Lesson may be performed over a very low rail, or small ditch; and the Author begs to recommend his fair readers, not, at any time, to ride over any thing above eighteen inches, or two feet high. There is much less difficulty in Leaping a ditch, than a hedge or rail; as the Horse, in the former case, keeps himself in a more horizontal position, and the Rider is, consequently, not so much disturbed from the Saddle.

Much depends on bringing a Horse up to a Leap. He must approach it in a perfectly straight position, and as quietly as possible; and in order to guide him straight up to it, a Bridoon Rein should be held in each hand, taking care that they are of exactly the same length, letting the Curb Reins

slip a little through the left hand; as they ought not, on any account, to be used in Leaping.

When the Horse has arrived at the Leap, and is preparing to spring over it, (which the Rider can perceive by his raising his fore-hand,) she must slowly yield forward her hands to him, that he may the more effectually clear it; as he ought, at that moment, to be left quite at liberty.

Should a Horse, when in the act of Leaping, not be left sufficiently to himself, he is compelled to make a greater effort than necessary; and either fail in the attempt to clear the Leap, or strain himself by the great exertion he is forced to use, in consequence of being held too tight in hand.

Neither must the Reins be too loose; as it is necessary, when the Horse arrives on the opposite side of the Leap, to raise his head, and stop him as much on his haunches as possible, without checking him, which causes him to alight firm and even on his legs; but this cannot be done if the Reins are too long, as the Horse is made to blunder, and, perhaps, come down, and the Rider to fall over his head.

If a Horse is hurried at a Leap, it sometimes causes him to miss his distance, and spring too soon or too late, and either come down upon the object it was intended he should go over; or, if a rail, run against it, and, perhaps, throw himself and Rider over it: his paces must, therefore, be so regulated,

that he may take a spring sufficiently distant from the Leap, in proportion to its height, to enable him to clear it.

A Horse will sometimes require a little assistance from the Rider's hand, if he is not likely to raise himself in time. The aid, necessary in this case, is similar to that used in putting a Horse into a Canter, and must be practised with the same degree of delicacy; the object being, in both cases, to raise the Horse's fore-hand; but in Leaping, it must only be given when necessary; as a Horse, accustomed to this Lesson, will seldom require it.

A slight application of the Whip will, sometimes, be found of great use in Leaping, as it causes a Horse to exert himself.

When approaching a Leap, the Rider's body must be perfectly square, erect, and particularly pliant and easy; and when in the act of Leaping, and on arriving at the opposite side of the Leap, it cannot be thrown too much back. On the balance of the body back, depends the sitting a Leap well; as it closes the Rider's weight to the Saddle, and enables her to meet the Horse's action.

The hands must be kept low; as should they be lifted up, it not only checks the motion of the Rider's body from going back, but very much disturbs the Horse in the Leap.

The right knee must be kept well down in the crutch, with the leg drawn back, and pressed close to the Saddle;

the left knee and leg must also be kept close, and particularly steady.

When Ladies first practise this Lesson, they must commence it over a very small ditch, or object, laying close to the ground.

Frequent stops from an animated Canter, as well as Reining back, are excellent for preparing the Rider for the Leaping Lesson, particularly the Stop, where the seat is maintained by the throwing back of the body.

LESSON XIV.

RIDING ON THE WRONG SIDE.

YOUNG Ladies, particularly beginners, should, occasionally, ride on the off, or, what is usually termed, the wrong side of the Saddle; it not only improves the general pliancy of the body, but causes them to feel much more at ease, when riding on the right side. For this purpose, the crutch of the Saddle should be made moveable, and have a Safe for the leg on each side.

The Safe is that part of the Saddle against which the right leg presses, when riding on the right side.

When riding on the wrong side, the right hand becomes the Bridoon Hand, the left shoulder to be kept well back; and the same attention to the squareness of position must be observed, as when riding on the right side.

When the right becomes the Bridle Hand, the motions, already described, for guiding the Horse right and left, will be reversed; that is, to turn the Horse to the right, the nails must be turned a little down; and to the left, they must be turned up.

The motions of the hand for stopping, reining back, and putting the

Horse forward, to be the same with both hands.

If the Reins are held in the left hand when riding on the wrong side, the left shoulder will be pulled forward, instead of being kept back; which destroys the balance, and causes a Lady to appear extremely awkward; but, on the contrary, if they are held in the right hand, it materially assists in placing her square in the Saddle, and also improves the balance.

LESSON XV.

RULES TO BE OBSERVED ON THE ROAD.

ALWAYS commence your ride in a steady walk, which prevents any ruffling of the Animal's temper; as Horses are often rendered unsteady throughout a day's ride, by commencing it in one of the faster paces, particularly the Canter.

When a Gentleman accompanies a Lady on Horseback, he must ride on her right side, where he is ready to

assist her, if necessary, with his left hand.

A Horse must be more or less supported, or held up, according to the nature of the ground he is moving over; as should it be uneven, and the Horse not properly supported, he may be thrown down.

A Horse must not be hurried round a corner, either to the right or left, particularly in the Canter; as should he be leading with the opposite leg to the hand to which he is turning, his legs may slip from under him. In order, therefore, to guard against accidents, stop him, and walk him gently round the corner; and when in a straight line, the Canter may be resumed.

In meeting objects of any description on the road, always take the left side, keeping as much distance from them as possible; and in overtaking them, keep to the right, and as far from them as the width of the road will permit.

Horses that are led in hand must be particularly avoided, as they are generally disposed to kick at objects that approach them.

Should any thing occur, when in the faster paces, to cause a Horse to become restive, or at all unsteady, particularly in the Canter, stop him with a gentle hand, and walk him a few paces; and when he becomes pacified, set him off again; and in meeting objects which are likely to alarm a Horse, it is advisable, if in a Canter, to stop

him, and walk him quietly past; as he can be the better reconciled to them in the Walk, than in the Canter.

Should a Horse be inclined to go too close to a carriage, or other object, and the Rider finds a difficulty in keeping him from it, or that he is disposed to rub against it, a Bridoon Rein must be taken in each hand, and his head must be well bent towards the object, applying the left heel or Whip, according to circumstances, carrying both hands at the same time from it; this will force his croup from the object, and prevent the Rider from coming in contact with it.

Should any part of the Habit, excepting that which is under the right knee, want regulating, it must be done with the Rider's left hand; in which

case, the Reins must be taken securely in the right hand; but should it require adjusting under the right knee, that must be done with the right hand; but, on no account, take the knee out of the crutch of the Saddle for that purpose, while the Horse is in motion; and it is still more advisable, that somebody should hold his head whenever that is done.

When a Horse shies, the Rider must keep her eyes in a straight line between his ears to Letter A., and by no means to look for the object that occasioned it; the balance of the body being, thereby, drawn towards it, as the Horse is flying from it; the seat is, therefore, lost, and the Rider perhaps thrown. But by keeping the eyes in a line between the Horse's ears, the balance is preserved, and the seat undisturbed.

In approaching an object, that, in the Rider's opinion, may cause a Horse to shy, it is a good plan to take a Bridoon Rein in each hand, and endeavour to bend his head from the object, so that he may go past without perceiving it.

OTHER REMARKS.

It is a much safer plan, to put that part of the Habit which hangs near the Horse's side, round the foot, previously to putting it into the Stirrup, than to fasten it down with a clasp, or a pin; as, in the event of a Lady being thrown from her Horse, the Habit disengages itself with the foot.

The Skirt to the Riding Habit should not be too long, as there is a possibility of its getting between the Horse's fore-legs, or being blown across them, so as to check his action, and throw

him down. It also makes a Lady's figure appear disproportionate.

Long veils are also dangerous on Horseback, as they get entangled with the Reins, confuse the Rider, and cause her to lose the command of her Horse.

Never lift the right hand up, with the Whip in it, to adjust the Hat; it not only looks extremely awkward, but will sometimes cause a Horse to shy. Place the Whip under the thumb of the Bridle Hand; and should there be a Rein in the right hand, it may either be dropped, or placed under the fore-finger of the Bridle Hand. This leaves the right hand quite at liberty.

OF SADDLING AND BRIDLING LADIES' HORSES.

THE careless manner in which Ladies Horses are sometimes saddled, and bridled, and as they are often rendered unsteady in consequence of some part of their furniture being improperly fitted, or put on, it is hoped the following observations may not be considered out of place, as it is a subject that requires much more attention than is generally bestowed upon it.

OF THE BIT.

The Bit must be so placed in the Horse's mouth, as to allow sufficient room for the free action of the Bridoon, or what is commonly termed the Snaffle, between it and the corner of the mouth. The Bridoon must not be so short as to gag, or curl up the corner of the mouth, which deprives it of its true action, and renders it in a great measure useless to the Rider, as well as a punishment to the Horse.

If the above rule is observed, the Bit will be found about half way between the single tooth called the Tush, and the corner of the mouth, its proper situation; and particular attention must be paid, that the mouth-piece is perfectly level,

that is, not higher on one side of the mouth than the other.

If the Bit is lower in the mouth, the Curb Chain loses its effect; and the Bit is liable to be pulled sideways out of the mouth; the Appui is also destroyed; and the Horse made extremely restless, by the unsteadiness of the Bit: neither has the Rider half the command of the Horse she would have, were it properly placed.

If the Bit is higher than above stated, the Horse is rendered equally uneasy, and perhaps restive, from the jagged state of his mouth, and the Appui destroyed.

OF THE CURB CHAIN.

Generally speaking, the Curb Chain should neither be too tight, nor too

loose; but sufficiently easy to allow two fingers to pass freely between it, and the Horse's beard, when the Reins are not in hand. Some Horses require the Curb Chain tight, and some slack; this must be determined by the state of the Animal's mouth.

OF THE BROW BAND.

The Brow Band, or strap which passes directly under the Horse's ears, must be kept down, and not suffered to confine, or touch them, as it makes the Horse extremely unsteady about the head.

OF THE THROAT BAND.

The Throat Band must be sufficiently slack when the Horse's head is up, and well placed, to allow three or four fingers to pass freely inside of it.

OF THE LIP STRAP.

The Lip Strap passes from one cheek (not the ring to which the Rein is attached) of the Bit through a small ring in the centre of the Curb Chain, to the other; and will prevent a Horse learning the trick of taking the check of the Bit in his mouth. If it is too short, it will pull the Chain out of its place, so as to render it perfectly useless.

OF THE MARTINGALE.

If a Martingale be necessary, the Horse's head must be held up as high as it is intended the Animal should carry it, and the Martingale must be fitted to the Horse, while in this position, keeping it rather too long than too short.

If possible, dispense with the use of it; but should circumstances render it necessary to resort to one, that which is called a Nose Martingale is the least objectionable, as those with rings for the Reins to run through, are the most destructive things ever put on a Horse.

OF THE SADDLE.

Much care is necessary in the fitting of Ladies' Saddles; but as this is in general, or ought to be done by a Saddler, the Author will confine his observations to the position in which the Saddle should be placed on the Horse's back; at the same time, he begs to recommend, when Ladies purchase new Saddles, which have not been made expressly for their Horses, that they should not be used, until properly fitted by a skilful Saddler.

It is easy to trace the shape of the Horse's shoulders from the prominence of the muscles; the Saddle must, therefore, be kept sufficiently back, that the motion of the shoulders may not be interrupted in the slightest degree.

The Author is sorry to observe the general, and, he may add, absurd prejudice existing against the use of Cruppers. When a Horse has a low fore-hand, it stands to reason that the Saddle must work forward, if not kept in check by a Crupper, or other effective means. This is particularly the case with Ladies' Saddles, where the weight is principally thrown on the back part, or near the Cantle. This lifts up the pommel, and forces the Saddle on to the Withers.

Now when the Saddle is so misplaced, the action of the shoulders must be

greatly impeded, and the Horse in consequence is made to step short and low, and go on his Shoulders, by the increased weight that is thrown upon them; whereby he is rendered liable to trip, and is easily thrown down. When a Saddle is in the above position, a Horse cannot so effectually be put on his Haunches.

The object in so strongly recommending the use of a Crupper, is for the additional comfort and security of the Rider; to guard against the possibility of the Saddle working forward on the withers, and thereby prevent the additional weight being thrown on the Horse's shoulders, which, if suffered, would tend to spoil his paces, and endanger the Rider.

It would, therefore, be more judicious

to put up with the unfashionable and unsightly appearance of a Crupper, than run the risk of a severe accident.

When a Crupper is used, it must be sufficiently slack to allow the hand to lift it up two or three inches off the Horse's back.

The Horse must be properly girthed up before he is brought out of the Stable; and as old Horses when girthing are apt to inflate themselves, the Saddle must be examined the last thing before a Lady is put on horseback: it will often be found loose from the above cause, although previously tight.

The Girths should never be too tight, but only sufficiently so as to allow three fingers to pass up and down

between them and the Horse's side, with a trifling difficulty. If the fingers pass freely up and down, the Girths are too loose.

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